FOUR

LETTERS,

Originally written in

FRENCH,

Relating to the Kingdom of

IRELAND,

Accompanied with REMARKS.

To which is added,

A fifth LETTER by the ſame Author, containing a Computation of the Number of Inhabitants in all the Kingdoms and chief Cities of *Europe*, with a Conjecture concerning the Number of all the People that have lived upon the Face of the Earth, from the Creation to the preſent Time.

DUBLIN:

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MDCCXXXIX.

74/53

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FOUR LETTERS

Originally written in

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Relating to the Kingdom of IRELAND, accompanied with Remarks.

LETTER I.

SIR,

I Am now arrived at the *Ne plus ultra* of our Europe. 'Twas meer chance that drove me hither. I do not however repent the Journey, which was made by Sea in the Space of twelve Hours. You know I do not use to exaggerate Matters. You will therefore be surpriz'd when I tell you, that there is not a better People, or a more agreeable Country for its northern situation on the face of the globe, than Ireland and its inhabitants. Its great remoteness from the rest of the world, the little that is said of it in our books, and their young people when they visit us in their travels being all English, make it very little known to the rest of Europe. I wonder

* Bleau was ſo poorly furniſhed with materials for Ireland. Moreri † is incorrect and trifling. The Republica ſays hardly any thing to the purpoſe. And yet thoſe, you know, are the only canals that bring to us the knowledge of theſe weſtern parts. Having now learned the Engliſh tongue, I ſhall, in obedience to your commands, impart what my reading, my experience, and converſe with many of the Inhabitants have furniſhed me with, relating to this Kingdom.

Ireland after great Britain, which is more than twice as big, is the largeſt iſland in Europe. It is about 240 miles long, and 100 broad. Lat. 51, 15. and 55, 15. and Long. W. from London 5. and 10. It lies in the 9th and 10th Climates, ſo that the longeſt Day is near 17 Hours.

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* At the end of the volume of Scotland, (which is one of the beſt in that vaſt collection) there are only five ſorry maps, and twelve or fourteen leaves of deſcription of this Kingdom. † And Collier Moreri's tranſlator, is very ſhort. Echard labours under the ſame defect, beſides his Incorrectneſs. When the compilers of the Atlas of Great Britain ſhall have finiſh'd Wales and Scotland, and come to Ireland, we will ſee what helps the curious of this country will remit to them. Mr. Moll, (without controverſy, the ableſt geographer of the Age) made great complaints, for the few and ſuperficial corrections they made on his ſmall ſet of maps of Ireland, which he ſent over, one after another, as he made them, to Dublin. Had ſir William Petty accompanied his maps with deſcriptions, and due care been taken of the Impreſſion, it would have been a noble work. The fate of the far greater part of that ingenious gentleman's labours on this Country is much to be regretted. He had not only done the four provinces, and thirty two Counties (which are extent) but alſo made maps of all the Baronies to the Number of two hundred and fifty two; theſe Lord Sheldorn ſending to London in time of the late wars, the veſſel in which they were, was taken by a French privateer, and carried into St. Malo, where, very probably, they were ſold for waſte paper. Prat's large four ſheet map of Ireland is eſteem'd Senex's being copied from it, with more than ordinary exactneſs, is the only tolerable piece of that ſlight retealer; all his other maps being good for very little. 'Tis pity more pains was not taken on Ireland. It deſerves more. Mr. Gordon, (whom I mention'd in a former paper) having now finiſhed his ſurvey of Portugal, is to be ſent to Braſil; but was there ſufficient encouragement offered at home, it is not to be queſtion'd that he wou'd prefer Ireland to that Portugueſe plantation.

The

The aſpect of the Country in general varies much. They have many dry heaths, but their ‡ bogs are without Number. Theſe they diſtinguiſh into different ſorts, as wet, moſſy, red, &c. moſt countries being at firſt barbarous and ill-inhabited have been famous for bogs, as well as this: For the true cauſe of them is want of induſtry; at leaſt induſtry in good Meaſure may remove, much more prevent them. They are a great deſtruction to cattle, the chief commodity of Ireland; ſome thouſands periſh in them yearly; beſides the ſmell and vapours hence ariſing are putried and infect the air. The reaſon why the induſtry of the Engliſh has hitherto drain'd ſo few, is owing to a current belief that the coſt will ſurpaſs the profit. An Acre of tolerable good land in moſt parts is about four or five Shillings per ann. and the purchaſe ſeventeen or eighteen years. And therefore about four pound will purchaſe an acre of good land, and it is very doubtful whether that ſum will reduce a bog. The § loughs of Ireland are numerous, and ſome of them very large. Lough Neagh in the Province of Ulſter is the moſt famous. Its water petrifies wood, but that it turns any Part of Wood into Iron is now exploded on repeated Experiments. There are many mountains here, particularly in the province of Connaught, and County of Wicklow, and thoſe near Carlingford which are ſeen forty or fifty miles off at Sea, their tops are in many places covered with bogs. And ſome of the Vallies are ſo overſhadow'd by them and Hills; that being deprived of the Sun Beams, they are neither good for corn nor graſs. There are many noble Rivers here abounding with Salmon, Trouts, &c. their loughs too are very fiſhy. The ſprings of pure cool Water, (ſome whereof are medicinal even to hereticks) are every where to be found. Thoſe called

‡ See Beate's natural hiſtory in 4to. Dublin, 1726. He was phyſician to the ſtate in Ireland in 1657. as alſo Mr. Will. King's account of the bogs in Ireland.

§ See a letter from the famous Dr. Molyneux, to Dr. Muſgrave, concerning this lough, and ſeveral other very curious papers in the philoſophical tranſactions, ſome obſervations upon lough Neagh, in a letter from Francis Nevil, Eſq; to the Lord Biſhop of Clogher, in 1713, &c.

Holy

Holy Wells to which great Cures are aſcribed, are likewiſe in very great numbers.

There are quarries of marble in this Country with which the rich adorn their houſes: There is of ſeveral ſorts and colours; Kilkenny marble is moſt famous; when firſt dug it looks grey; but when poliſhed has a fine bluiſh colour, inclining to a black.

The principle fuel of the nation is Turf, of which there is no ſcarcity. There is a coal mine at Kilkenny and another near Newry in the north, which when that river is made navigable, will ſerve Dublin, &c. with fuel; by which means a great ſum will be yearly ſaved, which is now ſent to England, and Scotland for coal.

The weather here, is generally dark and uncomfortable. Sometimes the ſun does not ſhew his beauteous face once in ſome weeks; the day he does chance to ſhine out, I call my holy-day, I immediately dreſs, get me out into the fields, and do not return till he withdraws himſelf. Was this country inhabited by Perſians, they wou'd ſoon turn rank atheiſts, having no God to worſhip.

Hence it is plain the weather muſt be more inclinable to cold than to heat; the Natives make uſe of fire for ten months of the year. But then if the ſummer be cooler, the winters are a great deal milder than in England, and even at Paris. Some years there is no ſnow at all, and very little hail. But hoar froſts are common both in winter and ſummer. The country is ſubject to exceſſive rains, and frequent winds and ſtorms, that continue ſeveral days together. Theſe inconveniences may no doubt be helped by draining the boggy and watry places which increaſe the moiſtneſs of the air. The wind blows three fourths of the year from the weſt, ſo that they ſeldom want opportunities of going to England by Sea, tho' ſometimes there is not ſo much eaſt wind in five or ſix weeks to bring ſo much as the packet boat from England hither. The large woods, with which this, as indeed all other countries, before they came to be civiliz'd, was at firſt overſpread, are now quite deſtroy'd. They were of no uſe, but to afford ſhelter to Rogues, and to feed the air with unwholeſome Moiſtures.

There

There are two natural Curioſities, but of different kinds, in this country, with which I ſhall conclude this part of my letter.

On the Coaſts of the counties of Sligo, Mayo, &c. there are great quantities of Ambergreeſe gathered. The country people know the particular times and places to go look for it, from the Foxes reſorting to the coaſts, being drawn thither, probably by the ſcent of that valuable perfume: they eat it. An eminent apothecary of Dublin has ſhown me ſeveral large Pieces, one of which weigh'd above fifteen ounces. He believ'd he could ſell it at London for twenty or twenty five pound. Its ſurpriſing that no naturaliſts have been able to give any certain Account of the production of this precious ſubſtance. Some ſay it is the production of the moon and ſea water, others that there are little rocks of it, detached pieces whereof are thrown a ſhore by the tide; a third Opinion is, that it is of the nature of Sperma Ceti, the excrement of a certain fiſh.

There is in the north of Ireland, ſix miles weſt of Colerain, a remarkable pile of rocks, called the Giant's Cawſway, which is indeed an aſtoniſhing curioſity of nature. It runs out into the ocean. At low water it is about ſix hundred feet long, and from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and forty broad; tho' how much farther it runs into the ſea is not known. In ſome places 'tis thirty ſix feet high, and in others about fifteen. It conſiſts of many thouſand pillars, moſt of them perpendicular, and very cloſe to one another. Moſt of them are pentagonal, and hexagonal and ſome heptagonal, and from fifteen Inches to two feet diameter, and conſiſt of ſeveral joints, or one ſtone above another, one of them alway concave, and the other convex in the middle. There are many other ſingle pillars of the ſame ſort upon this coaſt. They ſeem to be a ſort of Marble. The country people tell many fables about them, and fancy it was a work of giants. Indeed, ſays Dr. Thomas Molyneux, in a letter to the Royal Society, deſcribing this very ſingular and curious work,) if we conſider either its angular and regularly ſhaped columns; or the long ſeries of ſo many exact joints in each of them, or the neat and curious articulation of theſe joints one into the other; or the vaſt height, ſtraitneſs, and magnitude

of

of ſome of the pillars; or the great variety as well as accuracy of their geometrical figures, or the ſtrange combination of their ſides, in ſuch a manner as there is not the leaſt vacuity or ſpace left between one column and another, they ſtand ſo cloſe together; conſidering, ſays that learned phyſician, all theſe particulars, the Giant's Cawſway of Ireland may very well be eſteemed one of the greateſt wonders, nature, or the firſt cauſe of all things has produced.

Tho' this country as we have above obſerv'd, be ſubject to exceſſive wet, the people are as healthy and long-liv'd as any where elſe. The plague is ſcarce heard of in an age. The ſame diſtempers that are common in England, and other countries, prevail here. Only looſneſſes of different ſorts and agues, (both which I conceive to be chiefly occaſion'd by the great moiſture of the air) are more riſe and fatal than in other countries. It is not true that the ſcurvy is utterly unknown here. It is not indeed ſo epidemical as in other maritime countries. The leproſy formerly was very common in Ireland. This loathſome diſeaſe was occaſion'd by the inhabitants feeding on unwholeſome ſalmons, that is, when the fiſh was out of ſeaſon, which is in the latter part of the year after they have caſt their ſpawn, upon which they do not only grow very weak and flaggy, but ſo ſickly, that over the whole body they break out into filthy ſpots, juſt like a ſcald man's head, ſo as it wou'd loath any one to ſee them. The poor ſort of the people had them for nothing, every river and brook, in moſt parts being very full of them. The Engliſh having got command of the country, put an effectual ſtop to the poiſonous feeding, by making ſevere laws againſt the taking of ſalmon in that unwholeſome ſeaſon, ſo that the many Hoſpitals, which were expreſly built to receive the leprous perſons, are now quite uninhabited, and fall to decay.

It may however be ſaid of Ireland in general, that it is one of the moſt healthful, fruitful and plentiful countries in Europe. It has abundance of good corn; of fruits, ſuch as theſe northern climates produce. Roots of all ſorts, but eſpecially Potatoes, &c. Salt and freſh water fiſh, in this laſt article it ſurpaſſes, as in paſtures, it

* Equals

* Equals the beſt Countries in the world. The Iriſh Cattle are nigh as large, and the meat far ſweeter than the Engliſh.

The manner here made uſe of to fructify the Ground is the ſame as in other countries, as dung of cattle, and pigeons, hearth aſhes, and mud, lime, ſea ſand, the goodneſs of which conſiſting in its ſaltneſs or pickle, is chiefly laid on cold clay; marl. Dr. King, late Archbiſhop of Dublin, in a letter to the royal ſociety, gives a very curious account of the manner of manuring lands by ſea-ſhells, as practiſed in the counties of Londonderry and Donnegal. In the Bay of Loughfoyle, there lie ſeveral eminences that hardly appear at low water; theſe are made of ſhells of ſea fiſh of all ſorts, more particularly of perriwincles, cockles, limpet, &c. the countrymen come with boats at low water, and carry loads of them away; they leave them in heaps on the ſhore, and there let them lie till they drain and dry, and then they carry them off and lays 'em on the land: This manure, ſays his Grace, continues ſo long, that he could find none that could determine the time of its enduring. The reaſon of its long continuance ſeems to be this, that the ſhells melt every year a little till they be all ſpent, which requires a conſiderable time, whereas lime, &c. operates all in a manure at once.

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* Buchanan, in the ſecond book of his hiſtory, ſays that Ireland has almoſt the fruitfulleſt paſture ground of all Europe. Paſcua fere totius Europæ uberrima. What however, Pomponius Mela, and an infinite number of copyers, have advanced that the graſs is ſo rank and ſweet, that the cattle do burſt, if they be ſuffered to feed too long, is a meer fable. For the cattle here, as in other countries, are left in the paſtures both day and night, without any danger of ſurfeiting, much leſs of burſting. I have, nevertheleſs, been credibly informed, that ſuch is the natural richneſs of ſome grounds on the banks of the Shannon, that they need no dunging, and never have any. So that Zealand, a province of Denmark, is not the only ſpot in Europe, that can boaſt of this quality.

LETTER II.

SIR,

TO that trite queſtion, which has been often made me, what be the ancienteſt nations of the world? I commonly make this reply, that thoſe countries, in proportion to the goodneſs of the climes, and their nearneſs to the firſt or original ſeat of mankind after the deluge, are certainly the moſt ancient, and were the firſt peopled. Now as it is generally agreed, and for good reaſons, that ſome where in Turky in Aſia, (tho' we can't aſcertain the particular ſpot there) was the reſting place of Noah, and his deſcendents; it will hence follow (our buſineſs here is only with Europe, and particularly Ireland) I ſay it will hence follow, that after Turky in Aſia, Turky in Europe came next to be peopled; then Germany and Italy, by chance boats from the coaſts of Dalmatia and the Morea; next the Netherlands and France; then Great Britain, by the ſhorteſt cut from the continent, viz. the ſtraits of Calais, and laſt of all Ireland came to be viſited by ſome of the human ſpecies, in all likelihood, at firſt from the nigheſt part of Britain, which is Galloway in Scotland. This conjecture I take to be ſo reaſonable, and ſo much according to the manner and courſe of nature, that there is no neceſſity to look out for Authorities to ſupport it. But as names go a great way with the generality, who mind the perſon who ſpeaks, more than the thing ſpoken, I ſhall in confirmation of it give the words of a writer of great weight in theſe matters, Sir William Petty ſays that the places near Carrickfergus were firſt peopled, and that with thoſe, who came from the parts of Scotland oppoſite thereto; for that Ireland was planted by ſome body in Cæſar's time, is moſt certain; that the art of navigation was not before that Emperor's time, ſo well underſtood and practis'd, as to bring men from any other part of the world thither, ſave from Great Britain; that from St. David's-head in South Wales, and from Holy-head in North Wales, Ireland is not clearly at any time diſcern'd, nor often at all; that the inhabitants of thoſe two Britiſh Head-lands,

had

had neither boats fit to paſs the ſea, is moſt probable; but that Carrickfergus may be always ſeen from Sccotland, is well known; and that a ſmall boat may row over in three or four hours is experienc'd; add to all this, the language of thoſe parts differ very little; the country about Carrickfergus is far better than that of Scotland oppoſite; and the chief Biſhop's ſeat of Ireland, and probably the firſt, is near thoſe parts. From all which, ſays Sir William, 'tis probable that Ireland was firſt peop'ed from Scotland. Indeed, in thoſe early times of navigation, to bring colonies from Spain hither, is not a little extravagant, but to fetch them from * Phænicia, Egypt, &c. wou'd even now be a conſiderable undertaking. I do not know how we can better apologize for the writers of ſuch romances, than by ſaying they liv'd in very dark and ignorant times, and talk'd at great random, not knowing oftimes whereabouts they were.

Some think that Ireland remain'd wholy barbarous, till about the ninth century, when the Danes or Oſtmen poſſeſs'd themſelves of it, the oldeſt monuments of human induſtry and ingenuity, that Ireland ſhews at this time, being the workmanſhip of that people, whoſe name they bear. They are called Danes-mounts. They are to be met with in all parts of the kingdom, I have ſeen ſeveral of them and could find nothing about them to engage my †

* The voyage from Syria and Egypt hither is nigh as far, but a great deal more dangerous than hence to the Weſt-Indies.

† It may be juſtly wonder'd at, how a late and ingenious writer ſhould talk ſo magnificently of thoſe ſepulchral mounts, as not only to compare them to the obelisks and pyramids of Egypt, but even to give them the preference in point of antiquity. The Oſtmen or Eaſterlings inhabitants of the province of Jutland, in Denmark, and the Germanick coaſts on the Baltick, all along to the river Weyſel, in Poland, but not of Livonia, Norway and Courland, as the ſame writer aſſerts; I ſay thoſe people had yet no exiſtence, when Egypt was poſſeſs'd by a great and flouriſhing people. There is only one other piece of antiquity that deſerves to be taken notice of in this country, viz. a few ſlender high round towers, reſembling the ſteeples of churches, the moſt remarkable is that at Swords, ſix miles from Dublin; I have view'd it. It is of a rude and ſimple make, and has nothing remarkable about it, but that the door is placed high above the ground. It reſembles thoſe ſteeples, deſcribed by travellers in Turky, that are called Menarets, adjoining to their moſques or temples.

Enquiry. The old Iriſh and Scots call them Carns, which in their language ſignifies a heap, but more eſpecially of ſtones careleſly thrown together, of which ſome are compos'd, as others are of earth. They were chiefly intended as ſepulchres of the dead, eſpecially of warriors who fell in battle, and of the nobility who chuſed to be buried on their own lands. There are but few of theſe piles to be found in England, becauſe the Danes were maſters of the country, not above 40 years, whereas they were conquerors and inhabitants of Ireland near 400 years together. That is, till the (pretended) Engliſh conqueſt in Henry 2d's reign, in 1171.

In 1542. Ireland was erected into a kingdom, the King and Parliament of England, confirm'd the act paſs'd in Ireland for that end. Before the King's of England were only ſtil'd Lords of Ireland. Sir Henry Sidney, who was ſent Ambaſſador into France and Scotland, by Queen Elizabeth, was after that made Deputy of Ireland. He ſuppreſs'd the rebellion of Shane O Neal, and ſet his head on Dublin caſtle. He divided the kingdom into ſhires, fortify'd Athlone, Carrickfergus, &c. he built rooms in Dublin caſtle, to preſerve the records of the nation, the ſtatutes of which he ordered to be printed. The great Sir Philip Sidney was his ſon.

Before Henry the 7th, the Engliſh lived in Ireland as the Europeans do in America, they were not puniſhable for killing a native. Sir John Davys and others ſtrenouſly contend that Ireland was in no meaſure reduc'd under the Engliſh, till queen Elizabeth's reign, and ſince.

The unfortunate Earl of Strafford, who was Lord Lieutenant here, in the reign of king Charles the 1ſt, did ſeveral uſeful things in the country.

Who were the firſt contrivers of the grand maſſacre of forty one, has never yet been diſcovered. That, as all other works of the like nature, had its foundation laid in darkneſs, and ſeal'd up no doubt with many execrable oaths. Archbiſhop Uſher is ſaid to have propheſied of it. The blow came very unexpected, for at that time the executioners had all imaginable indulgence and liberty. It was only the day before diſcovered to Lord Juſtice Parſons, (the judicious author of this tragical hiſtory) and that

too

too only in a broken relation. So that hereby the capital only, where ſome conſpirators were ſeized, was ſaved. For there was no time to warn the whole kingdom. The northern parts ſuffer'd moſt. Some ſay 150,000, others 200,000 were cut off. But let us not enter upon this ſcene of Horrors.— If Ireland was ever really conquer'd, it was by Cromwell. The campaign of that warrior was very bloody. The attack of Drogheda, had more the aſpect of a maſſacre than of a ſiege: It had its intended effect, by ſtriking ſuch a pannick into all other places of ſtrength, that they threw open their gates and ſubmitted to the conqueror. The conſequences of this ſubmiſſion make one of the moſt remarkable and intereſting Ælras of the Iriſh ſtory. The country was new peopled; nor was the Soldier forgotten— After the reſtoration, the Duke of Ormond was conſtituted deputy of the kingdom, by king Charles the 2d. 'Twas in that prince's reign that the famous Sir William Petty meaſur'd the kingdom, laid down ſchemes &c. he had perhaps the moſt curious and uncommon genius for the political domeſtick oeconomy of ſtates that any age or country had produced.

King James the IId. had ſcarce mounted the throne, when he began his grand project, by firſt practiſing on Ireland. He removes lord Shannon, &c. ſends for the Duke of Ormond very abruptly, and diveſts him of the government of the kingdom, to make way for Colonel Richard Talbot, afterwards earl of Tyrconnel, a man of all others moſt hated by the proteſtants; this gentleman falls to new model the army, diſbands 5 or 6000 proteſtant ſoldiers, &c. From 1685, to 1690, nothing but confuſion, violence, and the moſt direful expectation reigned in this country. The happy campaign of 1690 will ſhine, with diſtinguiſh'd luſtre, in the annals of Ireland, whilſt the name of our dear deliverer, worthy to be written in letters of gold, will be handed down to the wonder and veneration of grateful poſterity.

Lord Wharton was deputy here in 1709, duke of Shrewsbury in 1714. on the acceſſion of king George the 1ſt, the duke of Grafton, (whoſe father fighting under the famous earl of Marlborough before Corke, was killed by a muſket ſhot) and my lord Gallway were conjunct in

the government of this country. Duke of Bolton was here in 1719. who was ſucceeded by my lord Carteret, that Lord fill'd this high ſtation ſix years. He had for ſucceſſor the duke of Dorſet, the preſent lord lieutenant of the kingdom.

The government of Ireland is not triennial, as is generally believed, but during pleaſure. The powers of the Lord Lieutenant were greater formerly than now, it appear, however, by the Duke of Ormond's patent, bearing date the firſt of February 1662. that that noble lord had not the nomination to Biſhopricks. There was a farther abridgment made of the chief governors power in the perſon of my lord Carteret, who conſented thereto, on condition that the ſame ſhould not be augmented to thoſe that ſhou'd come after him.

The places now in the lord lieutenant's gift, as well in the church as in the military and civil liſt, are not conſiderable. Beſides there are always ſome, the other ſide the water, who keep in waiting at the fountain-head. All ſuch unnatural applications, however, have been always diſcouraged by the King and his Engliſh miniſtry, as tending to draw off all neceſſary dependance upon the Lord Lieutenant, and to ſink his perſon into that diſhonour and diſregard which muſt in great meaſure diſable him to do ſervice.

According to the eſtabliſhment and liſt, bearing date the firſt Day of April, 1666. and ſigned Charles Rex, the Lord Lieutenant's ſallary was fixed at 3860 l. and odd money, beſides as General of the army, per ann. 4330 l. captain of a troop of horſe, 723 l. colonel of foot 608 l. &c. In all 9786 l. according to a manuſcript copy which I have before me, of the civil and military liſt of Ireland, dated the 12th of Aug. 1718. ſigned Stanhope, the Lord Lieutenant has 18 l. per diem, or 6593 l. per Ann. Now his anual ſalary is fix'd at 12000 l. Our ambaſſadors at the principal Courts of Europe, viz. the Hague, Paris, Madrid, and Vienna, have the ſame appointment, beſides their plate, or 1500 l. to buy it. So that ſuppoſing the viceroy's of Ireland's revenue could be extended to 20000 l. per Ann. yet would it not be ſufficient to ſupport that vaſt magnificence and ſplendour he commonly lives in, did he

continue there much longer than he ordinarily does, which I think, is only 7 or 8 months in the two years. That is during the ſeſſion of Parliament, which is kept only every other year in this kingdom.

(The Lord Primate of Ireland, the Chancellor, and the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, being at this time appointed Lords Juſtices, in the abſence of the Lord Lieutenant, are treated with their Excellencies, and have each 100l. per month.)

The Parliament compos'd of Lords and Commons as in England, have a negative upon any Law that the Lord Lieutenant and his Council ſhall offer to the King, and which the King and his Councils in England ſhall under the Great Seal remit to the ſaid Parliament.

LETTER III.

SIR,

I Now proceed to give you an account of the preſent ſtate of this country,

Ireland by its ſituation, its natural produce, and the diſpoſition of the Inhabitants, wou'd, on right management, ſoon become one of the moſt flouriſhing countries in the world.

It lies fairer for the Weſt-India trade than either England or Holland; the victualling their veſſels is two thirds leſs; it has the ſame manufactures of its own, as England to carry thither. The ſame may be ſaid of her traffick to Spain, Portugal, the Mediterranean, but her convenient ſituation for the fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, and particularly on the weſtern coaſts and iſlands of Scotland, were it lawful to purſue the one, and the other minded as it ought, theſe alone, with the linen trade, wou'd be ſufficient to her power and to her grandeur.

The commodities here for export are very conſiderable, both in point of quantity and value: They conſiſt in Cattle, Hides, Tallow, Butter, Cheeſe, Honey, Wax, Hemp, great quantities of Wool and Woolen Cloath of ſeveral ſorts, ſome Lead, Tin and Iron, Salmon, and Herring: Of theſe Cattle and Wool are by far the moſt conſiderable, and yet both are prohibited. Hence it is evident, with what a liberal hand Providence has multiply'd bleſſings on this country. But here we muſt invert the proverb and ſay, God propoſes, but man diſpoſes.

There are three different Intereſts here which do neceſſarily beget feuds and mutual jealouſies. I believe it wou'd require a very skilful hand to reconcile them, and make them meet. The intereſted are the native Iriſh, the Engliſh-Iriſh, and the Engliſh. The Engliſh and Scots come no ſooner to be ſettled here than they conſider themſelves on a ſeparate footing from the countries they have left. Ireland is now their home, and they look upon themſelves as principals. 'Tis their own Intereſts, and livelyhood they are to mind, and whatever claſhes therewith produces diſcontent and ill words. On the ſlighteſt view of the natural riches of Ireland, they, (both landed-men and traders) are charmed, and entertain comfortable hopes; but caſting their eye on the reverſe of the medal, and perceiving thoſe many valuable commodities of the country in great meaſure render'd uſeleſs by prohibition, (add hereto the chief poſts and places of the kingdom given to Engliſhmen who are ſent over, and not to themſelves, who now are in effect natives, know the country, and bear the charges of it) this mal-treatment (as they unreaſonably term it) fills them with anger and complaints. The low condition of their country is uppermoſt in every converſation, and, I ſuppoſe, they find it a relief from that oppreſſion of choler, which would choak them, did they not ſometimes diſcharge it upon paper. Another way of ſhewing their reſentment is their fetching thoſe foreign commodities from France, Spain, Holland, and other places, which before the prohibitions were ſold them from England. Indeed it is ſcarce neceſſary at all for Ireland to receive any goods of England, both becauſe they may have

have them cheaper at the firſt markets, and alſo they make uſe of their own Iriſh bottoms.

Now as theſe impediments to Ireland are not natural but contingent, ſo are they alſo many ways removeable. I ſhall here hint at two only, which are altogether in their power, and will prove moſt effectual to the end propoſed, I mean the retrenching of luxury in the great, and baniſhing lazineſs from among the poor.

Luxury is the bane of Ireland; drowned in that vice, men turn thoughtleſs, and uncapable to apply themſelves to things ſerious and truly uſeful. It renders them ſoft, indolent, and regardleſs of the firſt duties of their high ſtation; This is the natural and neceſſary effect which pride and luxury hath on the minds of men. Thus unconcern'd and blind to the miſeries of their fellow creatures, and the bleeding ſtate of their diſconſolate country, they are uncapable, with any meaſure of vigour, to exert themſelves either for the relief of the one, or the ſupport and advancement of the other,

Idleneſs and lazineſs of the meaner ſort are chiefly to be referred to the indolence and lukewarmneſs of the great, and thoſe in power. There is a certain meaſure of courage, of heroiſm, Sir, requiſite in the cabinet, as well as in the camp. They talk much of a late magiſtrate of this city; according to all accounts he ſeems to be admirably qualified, and made to govern. Zealous, ſagacious, intrepid; he knew how to bend the ſtubborn back, and to force the ſubject to be happy. Such a man is the moſt valuable treaſure of any country, but he is of infinite worth and value in this.

There cannot be fewer than 300,000 idle or ſpare hands in this kingdom. If each perſon earn'd only 4d. per day, what a goodly ſum wou'd that amount to. It wou'd exceed the current caſh of the land. Of that 300,000 I reckon $\frac{3}{2}$, or at leaſt one half to be children between ſix and ſixteen years old. I have been aſſured on the ſpot, that the children of Norwich, Ipſwich, and Braintree, three towns in the eaſt of England, do earn near 30,000l. per ann. more than they ſpend. The induſtry and ingenuity of the Dutch children are famous all the world over. Each ſingle child there is a little treaſure to the ſtate; he

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brings in his mite both to the publick revenue, and to the parents pocket. But this is not the only good of infant induſtry. From their nonage train'd up and inur'd to labour and to earn a little, they Become even enamour'd with it, and have no notion of ſpending life otherwiſe. Add to this how quick and expert muſt thoſe hands needs be, when they grow up, that have been aſſiduouſly, and, as I may ſay, from the cradle employed, and in action.

That noble ſcheme of charity and work-ſchools, that is now going on in this kingdom, if view'd in the light of chriſtianity, is good and excellent; but if conſidered with a political eye, as it tends to the improvement and proſperity of the nation, it is perhaps one of the greateſt thoughts that could have enter'd into the mind of man. With regard to thoſe infant nurſeries of induſtry and labour, I'd make uſe of a ſacred alluſion, *Verily I ſay unto you deſpiſe not one of thoſe little ones.*

But though there were ſpare hands to earn millions, they ſignify nothing unleſs there were employment for them; now that there's enough and great variety * too to ſuit all complexions, in this country, I think needs no laborious proof; for here there is little more to be done than 1ſt, barely to take a turn into many parts of the Country and behold the rude and uncultivated ſurface of it. 2d. One has only to compute how much the Hollanders gain by the fiſhing trade, practiſed upon our ſeas. 3d. What the value is of all the commodities † imported and ſpent, which might by diligence be produced and manufactured here.

I have not been able, Sir, without indignation to hear ſenſible men ſay that it were well for England, if (the people of Ireland being ſaved) the iſland were ſunk under water. It muſt indeed be own'd that before the year 1650

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* For inſtance. There is a great deal of ground fit for Orchards, Gardening, &c. which wou'd make a pretty amuſement for children.

† There is imported into this country from England, Cider, Perry, Malt-liquors; almoſt all manner of wearing apparrel: Linen only excepted.

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that Oliver Cromwell was here, Ireland having no trade, few and inconſiderable manufactures, and frequent rebellions to be ſuppreſs'd, it was a dead load on England, but ſince that time matters are much alter'd to the better, for now, Ireland, not only ſupports its own ‡ Eſtabliſhment, and maintains 12000 men, at the rate of near 300000 l. at all times ready for the ſervice of England; it likewiſe conſumes of Engliſh commodities and manufacture to the value of above ‡‡ 600000 l. per ann. The Iriſh nobility and gentry greatly reſide in England, called Abſentees, ſpend there at leaſt, according to exact computations, other 600000 l. Add to theſe the profit ariſing to England, from the re-exportation of the linen-manufacture, from that part of Iriſh trade that is carried on by Engliſh merchants, and from the money paid for tranſporting the commodities of this country in Engliſh bottoms. Add to theſe articles the exchange of money, not only to England, but to every country where the Iriſh traffick; for the whole trade of Ireland goes thro' London, they having no fix'd exchange to any other place. Theſe articles put together can't amount to leſs than 200000 l. Thus the Engliſh

‡ By a manuſcript copy of the civil and military eſtabliſhment of Ireland, ſigned Stanhope, Auguſt 12, 1718. the military liſt is as follows; General Officers 16560. Four regiments of horſe, 44797. Six regiments of dragoons, 53317. Twenty regiments of foot, 183062. In all 281117. Ordnance, 4979. Military penſions, 6344. Governors of garriſons, 2682. Half pay, this article doubtleſs is much diminiſhed, 16435. Barracks, 13336. Military contingencies, 3000; and a few leſſer items. Total, 3488185. Sum total of the civil liſt amounts to 49433 *l.* The moſt conſiderable articles in it are to penſioners on the civil liſt, above 12000. To the French penſioners per ann. 11000. Now diminiſh'd by deaths if I be rightly informed, to 6000 *l.* To the nonconforming Miniſters per ann. 1200. &c.

‡‡ To coals about 100000. To corn, ſome years, 100000 *l.* (this is greatly ſurprizing. I have been credibly advis'd, that at Berwick in the North of England, every year there is a call, there is bought up and ſhipp'd off there of Scots corn to the value of 60000. and ſometimes 70000 *l.* beſides what is ſhipp'd off at Dunbar and Leith.) All the Eaſt-India goods, &c. conſumed here, are imported from England, the act of navigation making it highly penal to bring them from any other place.

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nation gains by Ireland ‖ 140000 l. per ann. of which may be reckon'd 800000 l. in money, and 600000 l. in commodities, viz. Linen-cloath, Yarn, Wool, and a few other things. Add to all this, do not Engliſh Gentlemen find the conſiderable preferments in Ireland, in the Church, in the State, and in the Army, equally advantagious to them, as if Ireland was part of the ſame Iſland? From all which it is abundantly evident that England uſes Ireland with all kindneſs and indulgence, even as ſhe does Wales or any other part of herſelf, becauſe ſhe could not do otherwiſe without huge ingratitude and unfairneſs. A little gut of water of ſix hours ſail which ſeparates the two kingdoms, and the inhabitants of this country being diſtinguiſh'd by the name Iriſh, can never exclude them from the advantages and privileges of thoſe of his Majeſty's ſubjects commonly call'd Engliſh §

LETTER IV.

SIR,

THERE cannot be fewer than two millions of inhabitants at this day in Ireland, whereof I reckon 1400000 Romans, and 600000 Proteſtants, of theſe 200000 are Scots, who inhabit chiefly the N. W. counties; the Romans, or natives, are ſcat-

‖ Ireland is enabled to pay theſe immenſe ſums by having an over-ballance of trade with ſeveral countries, as Spain, Portugal, Hamburg, and ſome places in the Baltick. But alas! the money which ought to be returned to Ireland in purſuance of this over-ballancing trade is remitted to London to pay debts there. From hence it is plain that England receives the whole benefit of the trade of this nation.

§ The profits ariſing to England from their plantations in America, has never been known to exceed 1700000 *l.* per ann. The current caſh of this kingdom is about 500000 *l.* That of England is reckon'd at 2000000 *l.* The wealth of Ireland is ſuppoſed to be about the eighth or tenth part of that of England, and the King's revenue in both kingdoms ſeems to be about that proportion.

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ter'd over all, but are in greateſt numbers in the ſouth-weſt provinces of Munſter and Connaught. The prieſts are very numerous: ſuch of them as actually have (for I believe their number is not great) had their education at foreign univerſities, are pretty well vers'd in philoſophy, divinity, (eſpecially the controverſial points) and the fathers, and they ſpeak Latin and French; theſe ſometimes gives them advantage over the more ignorant of the eſtabliſh'd clergy who never go farther than to ſome printed ſermons, and a few treatiſes of Stillingfleet, &c. The popiſh Intereſt ſeems to me to be much on the decline. On K. James the IId's leaving this country, many thouſands followed him. Their places were fill'd with new recruits of proteſtants from Britain. Every ſeſſion of parliament has produc'd ſome new and ſevere edict againſt their growth. Their heads or great families are moſtly extinct. There is no more than five or ſix peers or noblemen who profeſs the Roman Catholick religion, there may be 100000 in tolerable circumſtances, the remainder, that is, 1300000 are poor, and wretched, and naked beyond deſcription, and beyond even imagination. They cannot be ſaid to have houſes or cloaths; they live in a hut or mud-wall about five feet high, covered with a few wattles on the top, and an handful of ruſhes thrown over them, they ſleep on a wad of hay or ſtraw, and live on milk and potatoes; this hardy and coarſe manner of living has not the ſame effect here as almoſt every where elſe, of rendering men healthy and nimble, and robuſt. The Iriſh natives are generally feeble, ſickly, and quite ſunk in their ſpirits. Men of this complexion are very unfit for fighting, and little capable to give uneaſineſs or alarm to any government, far leſs to an armed one. There is one thing, however, I cannot but take notice of, and which, from what has been juſt obſerv'd of the poor diet, and ſickly conſtitution of theſe people, will appear a paradox; it is their fruitfulneſs. I believe the poor Iriſh are the moſt broody people on the face of the globe. As I travell'd the road I could ſee at the door of every hut or cabbin ſix or ſeven little things almoſt ſtark naked, crauling about on all four, more reſembling mice than rational creatures. I had been

entertained with a ſcene, a little reſembling this, in ſome parts of Weſtphalia, but no where elſe. But that is far exceeded by this both in numbers and in Wretchedneſs. Had not the philoſophy of this Phenomenon, the virtues of potatoe, engaged my thoughts, I believe I ſhould have fallen into a fit of melancholy; to ſee ſuch numbers of noble and immortal creatures, made after the image of the Great God, and of the ſame nature and make with the grandeſt Monarch on the Throne, ſo amazingly diſfigur'd, and ſunk low as the beaſts that periſh.

If you except thoſe affecting objects, which inded every where and every moment preſent themſelves to you; and if you alſo except the great deal of bad weather there is in Ireland, I do believe there is no country where one may live more agreeably, more plenteouſly, and at a more eaſy expence than in it *.

As to pleaſure; every entertainment which has the authority of Faſhion in England, prevails here, and ſome it may be, in a yet greater degree. There is hardly a family of any account in the Kingdom which does not ſpend the winter evenings in gaming. The Ladies are rather fonder of this amuſement than the men; dancing that pretty innocent houſe-Diverſion hardly yields to that vice in their Eyes.

One wou'd think Apollo, the God of muſick, had taken a large ſtride from the continent over England, to this Iſland. The whole nation are great lovers of this high entertainment. A ſtranger is agreeably ſurpriz'd to find almoſt in every houſe he enters Italick airs ſaluting his ears. Corelli is a name in more mouths than

* It is now the month of October, and on exact enquiry, I find the prices of victuals, &c. in Dublin markets to be as follows: Good Beef, 1 d. per pound, and other Butchers meat in proportion. A Turkey at 1 s. Gooſe, 10 d. &c. Butter per pound, 3 d. Coal, 14 s. per tun. Candle, 3 d. halfpenny a pound. Coaches and Chairs, a ſet-down within the Liberties of this large City, 6 d. For a Coach the firſt hour, 1 s, and the reſt 6 d. Waſhing of Linnen is very cheap. The play-houſe, however, for what reaſon I know not, is the ſame high price as the Engliſh ones; and the lodging a great deal dearer than in London; here they ask you a piſtole and a moidore, whom you could hardly think knew what a piſtole and moidore was.

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many of their viceroys. Why mayn't we attribute the human and gentle diſpoſitions of the inhabitants to the refinements and powers of that divine art? The harp, which you know is the Arms of Ireland, wrought greater atchievements in the hands of the Iſraelite King.

The gentry are not ſo fond of hunting and fiſhing as the Engliſh and other nations. Tho' there is no country in the world abounds with more, or perhaps, with ſo much game of all ſorts, whether for the hound, or the gun, or the rod, as Ireland; witneſs their well furniſh'd tables, which for variety of good diſhes, far ſurpaſs thoſe of their neighbours, and are equal'd only by the Germans and the Poles.

The Empire of letters, my dear L———, is farther extended than you imagine. There is Claſſick ground out of Italy. The better to form a judgment of the taſte of this people, in manners of learning, I have paſt ſome hours in a Bookſellers ſhop, whereof there is a great many in the capital. I found there is no city in Europe, *(ceteris paribus)* where there be ſo many good pieces printed, and ſo few bad. They do not believe this, but it is becauſe they do not know what's done in other places. Printing and Books are cheaper here than in London, but dearer than in Holland, and near a par with France. Engliſh editions are ſold at the ſame rate as in London. But the prices of foreign books are exorbitant, and paſs all bounds, the prime coſt whereof in Holland, whether they be bought new, or at auctions, is very moderate, and a meer trifle.

Coffee-houſes here are much frequented, they have the beſt Engliſh papers, the Amſterdam Gazette, and three good * News-Papers, taken out of the Engliſh; of their own. The better ſort are fond of news, and well vers'd in publick affairs. The vulgar are bigots to the houſe of Auſtria; they are impatient to fight; and are even become petulant and ſuſpicious of the cauſes of our inactivity and moderation. There are bigots, ſir, in the Civil, as in the Religious World.

* Viz. Paes Occurrences, the Gazette, and the Evening-Poſt.

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After the four capitals of Europe, Paris, London, Rome, and Amſterdam, Dublin, I think, may take place. It is a very large, populous, and well built City. It ſtands on near as much ground as Amſterdam, and would take an oval wall of ſix miles and a half to encompaſs it. According to the manuſcript account (taken laſt year) of all the ſeveral Baronies and Counties in the Kingdom of Ireland, as the ſame were returned and are now remaining in his Majeſty's Surveyor-General's Office, there are 12000 houſes in Dublin, which at the rate of 10 Perſons to a houſe, makes the number of the inhabitants amount to 120000. The river Liffy, over which there are five ſtone Bridges, runs thro' the middle of the city, ſhips of good burden come up to the lowermoſt bridge, and unload at the cuſtom-houſe key. From this bridge there is a noble view down the river, which is always full of veſſels; and in winter evenings, when all the lamps are lighted, you have three long Viſtos, reſembling fire works, both up and down the river, and before your face, as you paſs the bridge from the old town. The out-letts of Dublin into fine fields, the banks of the river, a royal park, the ſea ſhore, &c. are very beautiful, and in this far exceed London, and indeed moſt other cities of Europe, I have ſeen. The ſtreets are pretty broad and very ſtreight; but the new ones, Abbey-ſtreet, Jervais-ſtreet, Dawſon's-ſtreet, &c. are very ſpacious and noble. The Batchelors-walk, which looks to the river and the ſhipping, wants only a row of trees before the Houſes, to make it one of the moſt delightful ſtreets in Europe.

The moſt remarkable buildings here are, the Parliament-houſe; it is a very large and maſſy ſtructure, has been a building theſe ſix Years, and is now on the matter finiſhed, it is all of Portland ſtone, and has coſt ——

The new Play-houſe in Aungier ſtreet is of brick; it yields to none in Europe, and ſurpaſſes thoſe in London. Sir Edward Pierce, the King's Surveyor-General, was the Architect to both thoſe Buildiegs.

The Univerſity or College owes its foundation chiefly to Queen Elizabeth, it is an antique ſtructure, but the

Library

Library built in 1718, is all of hewn ſtone, and exceeding noble: The College Revenues are conſiderable, but much inferior to thoſe of Oxford and Cambridge, which have been reckon'd together at 50000 l.

The Tholſel is no contemptible building.

The Cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Patrick, is very ancient: It is a very large and ſtately pile, but without any ornament within, only a handſome Monument of the late Primate Marſh, who left a noble collection of Books to the number of ſixteen thouſand Volumes for publick uſe; the inſcription on the monument begs the reader to go look at it. In the Quire, near the Altar, there is a black marble put up at the charge of the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's, on which there is a very remarkable † inſcription. In all the Cathedral Churches of Ireland there are now actually but one Quire entire, and that in Dublin, ſerving both here and at Chriſt's Church.

The Work-houſe for the poor is very well look'd to here. The Dutcheſs of Ormond largely contributed to it.

The Royal Hoſpital for old and maimed Soldiers is a very beautiful and noble ſtructure. It exceeds that of Chelſea for its charming and wholeſome ſituation. The Government and OEconomy of the houſe are taken from the Engliſh one. There are betwixt four and five hundred within doors, and nigh as many out-penſioners. That prepoſterous error of giving exorbitant ſalaries to the Governor, Sub-Governors, &c. of theſe charitable endowments, is maintaining the great and the rich with the money of the poor, is not peculiar to this houſe.

† That inſcription imports that the great Duke of Schomberg, who fell at the Breach of the Boyne in 1690, is interr'd there; and that the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's, having both by letters and friends, preſs'd the relations of that great Man to honour his memory with ſome ſepulchral Monument, they had been deaf to all theſe entreaties; for which reaſon, they, (the Dean and Chapter) at their own charge, had put up that Marble Stone. The inſcription concludes with this apt but pathetick ſtricture againſt thoſe unworthy deſcendants, *Plus potuit fama virtutis apud alienos, quam ſanguinis proximitas apud ſuos.*

The Blue-Coat Hospital is the only one for Boys in Dublin. But there are few parishes without charity-children, who are maintain'd in cloaths, schooling, &c. and thereafter put out to trades, or service.

The Barrack is one of the largest buildings in the world, it is handsome, agreeably situated, and consists of four open courts. Four regiments of men, one of horse, and three of foot are always quarter'd here, in order, say they, to be at hand to quash popish Insurrections, but I find they are more frequently employ'd against their numerous poor tradesmen, who, for want of bread, do sometimes gather in a tumultuous manner. This is the natural consequence of idleness. Their governors accuse them of laziness; they again censure their governors for being little solicitous to find out work to employ them. There is a large Field adjoining the Barrack called Oxmantown-Green, wherein they sometimes muster two regiments of men.

On Essex-Bridge you see a handsome statue of K. George the Ist. on horseback, and another of K. William on College-Green. The memory of this Prince is held so dear and sacred in this country, that they purpose to erect another monument in honour of him in Steven's-Green.

The Bason is a large receptacle of water which serves the city. It is very charming, having a fine green terras , nd rows of trees running quite round it.

Stephen's-Green, which I reserve for the last, is one of e finest Squares in Europe. It is nigh a mile in cirmference, it is the common resort of the Beau Monde. n three sides it is encompassed with a range of handsome ildings, the fourth is going on. It will hinder the open view into a very large and beautiful country, which reigns from the green for the space of seven or eight miles to the foot of the high mountains of Wicklow, which do at once diversify and terminate the Rural Prospect.

The two Peers, or Haven of this city has been a work of great labour and expence; it was indeed, an undertaking worthy an ancient Roman: They are called the North and South walls; they run a mile out into the sea, and take in and encompass two very large spaces of ground which once belonged to that element. At the extremity

of

of the South wing or wall there ſtands a little fiſher-town, called Ring's-end, three miles beyond which lies the Bar, a dangerous bank of ſand, upon which at ebb and neap tide there is no more than 6 foot of water. At ebb the haven in a manner falls dry, both above and below Ring's-end, ſo as one may go round the ſhips at anchor on foot. That Bar renders the entrance into Dublin very difficult, and even dangerous.

I had almoſt forgot to tell you that the Lord Mayor has a fine manſion houſe, and lives in great ſplendour. It is a beautiful Spectacle to behold that chief Magiſtrate, in his purple robes, with a white rod in his hand, attended by his officers, walking on foot thro' the city, ſurveying the markets, weighing the bread, and this he does twice a week, and is on foot from eight in the morning, till one or two o'clock in the afternoon.

There is one obſervation, however, I muſt add, and which I am loth to do, becauſe it will ſpoil a beautiful picture: The ſtreets of Dublin, from one end to the other, ring with the moſt execrable oaths that ever I heard. They ſwear, I believe, more in this city than in all England, and more in England than in all Europe beſides. Here the Magiſtrate paſſes on the right, and the Miniſter on the left, without giving the leaſt check, or troubling their heads about the matter. I am told the far greater part of thoſe ſwearing monſters are Romans; it may be ſo; and it does hence appear, that in this article there is an *ample and boundleſs Tolleration.*

But that I may not leave a bad reliſh either on your mind or my own, I will conclude, by obſerving, that the vices of the people of Ireland are far over ballanced by their many eminent virtues, among which that of hoſpitality and civility to ſtrangers, (which ſeem to have fled from all other Climes) and which they know how to exerciſe in a very engaging and noble manner, do more particularly challenge my Notice, becauſe I have experienc'd them.

I am,

 SIR, &c.

LETTER V.

A computation of the Number of Inhabitants in all the Kingdoms and chief Cities in Europe, *with a Conjecture concerning the Number of all the People that have lived upon the Face of the Earth, from the Creation to the preſent Time.*

Quoniam in eo Studio aliquantulum Ætatis ſpatium conſumpſi, ſi id mihi aſſuma, video id meo jure quodammodo vindicare. TULLY.

	Mill.	Thou.
FRANCE	17	
Spain and Portugal	10	
Italy with the Iſlands	13	
Germany with Hungary	21	
Poland	14	
Scandinavia	11	
Moſcovy	17	
Turky in Europe	18	
Great Britain and Ireland	10	
Netherlands	4	500000
Total in Europe	135	500000
Total in the whole World	350	

1. France, with her new conqueſts in the Netherlands, Germany and Spain, by meaſuring on the beſt maps, viz. thoſe of Mr. de Liſle's and Mr. Mol's, I find contains above 110 Millions of Engliſh acres. Brietius who thought there might be 20 Millions in this kingdom in Charles the IXth's time, and modern writers who contend for the ſame number at this day, do certainly exaggarate: I have rather endeavour'd to keep in the other extream.

2. Spain

2. Spain and Portugal, tho' at leaſt as big as France, are not near ſo well peopled, the reaſons whereof are known to every body.

3. Italy, tho' no larger than Spain, is fuller of people; her Governments are milder; her Sea-ports have greater trade and commerce; ſhe is viſited by ſtrangers from all Europe, &c. and yet this delicious country is far from being ſo well peopled as it ought and as it well deſerves.

4. The Empire is about $\frac{1}{7}$ larger than France. It is very populous. The German Wombs, with thoſe of Poland and Ireland, I take to be the moſt fruitful on the face of the Earth. The ſtreets of their towns, Villages, &c. are crouded with children.

5. Poland has a territory half as large as that of France.

6. Scandinavia, (comprehending Sweden, Norway, and Denmark,) is nigh twice as large as Germany; but every one knows what ſort of Soil and Climate it is of, and conſequently how thinly inhabited. That Europe was once over run by Colonies from this country does not prove, as hiſtorians alledge, that it was extraordinarily peopled, but only that a ſtout body of them were deſirous to exchange bad quarters for a better, in which, indeed, they were no fools.

7. By the lateſt and moſt authentick maps of this vaſt tract, by Mr. de Liſle, whom Peter the Great, by conſent of the French King, carry'd with him to Peterſburg, it wou'd appear that this country is not near ſo large as we find it laid down in our common maps. The number of inhabitants here fixed on by me is founded on no authentick authorities, but only on verbal relations which I have compared and compounded as well as I could. Had the above-named Emperor lived longer, this barren deſart wou'd have prov'd a fruitful land to us.

8. Turky is nigh half as long as France. Here, I doubt, Theory and Divinity too will be able to ſtand their ground againſt practice and experience. Poligamy, I believe, from a good deſign, has been given out as no friend to propagation. There are ſeveral obvious reaſons to hinder this country to be well peopled; ſome of theſe are frequent Plagues, Wars, and no ſupply of Strangers or Foreigners.

And

And yet, according to our beſt accounts, Turky is exceeding populous: and I verily believe I have done here as in every other article, rather under-rated the number of its inhabitants. They have by others been reckon'd at 20 Million.

9. That is 7 Million to England, 1 to Scotland, and 2 to Ireland. Some will plead for 8 Million to England. I am ſatisfy'd, on the cloſeſt ſcrutiny, there cannot be leſs than ſeven. Diodorus Siculus makes a mighty boaſt that Egypt, which according to Lucas, Rollin, &c. was 200 French Leagues long, and a proportionable breath, contain'd 7 Millions of Souls. England, which has not above two thirds of that extent, can produce an equal number of inhabitants. Ireland, if you except England and the Netherlands, is proportionably as well peopled as any other in Europe.

10. The Low-Countries, or the Seventeen Provinces, are, in extent of territory, but as two thirds to England, but far more populous in proportion to that extent. The two provinces of Holland and Zealand contain no more than one Million of acres, and one Million and a half of inhabitants, that is little more than half an acre for every head, whereas England has near two and a half for every head. France, tho' it has above a hundred times more territory, and ſixteen times more inhabitants than thoſe two ſmall provinces, yet they are, as might eaſily be proved, four times richer and ſtronger. This can be attributed to nothing but the Situation, Trade, and Policy of the people. Here I will beg leave to digreſs a little, to run a parallel betwixt two rival Crowns in point of territory, Wealth, and Strength. Great-Britain and Ireland are about $\frac{1}{7}$ leſs only than France (I take here in the plantations of neither.) France has not two ſubjects to our one. Laſt Wars, at a medium, we raiſed ſix Millions per ann. France who was principal, ſome what above nine, (Spaniſh Gold made up the reſt.) Britain and Ireland have above 120000 Seamen: France has not 25000. Theſe two kingdoms may have about one Million Tun of Shipping, worth near 7000000 l. France has not one fifth or ſixth part ſo much. Value of our annual exportation of all commodities domeſtick and foreign,

foreign, with freight of Ships, is above fourteen Million; that of France is not ſix Millions. (See map of the wealth of France; Preſent ſtate of France, in 5 Vol. Paris 1727, &c.

The proportion of the trade and ſhipping of the whole commercial World may ſtand thus; Great Britain, &c. has ſix parts; Dutch near five; France, one; the Baltick, that is, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Hamburg, and Dantzick, two; Spain, Portugal, and Italy, nigh other two.

N. B. Three fourths of the trade of the whole World is in the hands of Proteſtants. To thoſe powers juſt mention'd, I add, that the ſubjects of the proteſtant Princes and the Hans-towns, in the Empire, do poſſeſs four fifths of the trade of that country.

An Eſtimate of the Number of Inhabitants in the principal Cities of Europe.

First Claſs.

LONDON	700000
Paris	600000
Amſterdam	250000
Rome	160000
Venice	160000
Naples	150000
Milan	150000
Vienna	150000
Dantzick	150000
Dublin	120000
Florence	100000
Lyons	100000

Second Claſs.

Rouen	90000
Berlin	80000
Tholouſe	80000
Briſtol	70000

Cologn

Cologn	80000
Antwerp	70000
Bruſſels	70000
Hamburg	70000
Nurinburg	70000
Augsburg	70000
Copenhagen	60000
Stockholm	60000
The Hague	60000
Utrecht	60000
Leyden	60000
Rotterdam, &c.	60000

This calculation is chiefly founded upon, 1. the number of houſes, 2. of Families, as in Paris, the cities of Germany, &c. where the houſes being four or five ſtories high ſometimes contain ſo many families; the not minding this, has run ſome into great miſtakes. 3. The medium of burials, which I multiply by thirty, ſuppoſing that one dies yearly out of that number; But where Mortality-bills are not kept, we look out for other ways, tho', I doubt, any are ſo ſure.

London is perhaps the largeſt, certainly the moſt populous, and the greateſt emporium in the whole world. One place with another it is ſix miles long, and near two broad. In 1695, upon an exact calculation, the number of ſouls was found to be above 500000. Dr. King, who wrote in Q. Anne's time, made them 534440, of whom he computed, males 277117, females 257323, and fighting men 103000. This he reckon'd to near double what Mr. Grant computed about forty years before. Since the acceſſion of the houſe of Hanover, this capital has vaſtly increaſed in buildings, &c. for which reaſon I have made a vaſt addition to Dr. King's eſtimate. The medium of burials for theſe fourteen years paſt are about 24000: It is true, ſeveral pariſhes inſerted in the London bills, ſuch as Hackney, Iſlington, Newington, &c. ought not to be there. A famous writer about half a century ago, calculated, that in the year 1722 there would be 44662 burials in London, whereas they did but very little exceed the

half

half of that number. The reaſon of that miſtake I apprehend was, his allowing as many ſouls to a houſe in London, as to one in Dublin. How matters here ſtood about fifty years ago I cannot tell: But now I take the proportion as ſeven to ten, 1. becauſe the women here (I do not pretend to know the reaſon of it) are more prolifick than thoſe in England, but I inſiſt on it for fact, having compared whole ſides of ſtreets and lanes in both capitals, in this particular. 2. In Dublin ſervants, whether girls or boys, are had for nothing, or what is next to nothing; ſo that hardly any family wants one or both; whereas in London the coſt of keeping a ſervant runs very high.

Paris forms a ſort of an oval of above three miles long and two and a half broad; The large plan of this city, publiſhed in 1728 by Gevres, makes it ſomewhat larger. It is in proportion more populous than London.

Amſterdam is betwixt eight and nine miles in compaſs: Its exceeding populouſneſs is more owing to reſiding foreigners, than the natives. The Dutch women ſeldom marry before 28 or 30 years; ſome who would laugh, aſſign the uſe of ſtoves for a cauſe of their barrenneſs; whatever it be, it is no uncommon thing to ſee one child heir to three or four families; this will at leaſt account for the wealth of that people.

Mr. de Souligny, a French gentleman, in a book intituled, Old Rome and London compared, publiſhed in England, attempts to prove that London exceeds the imperial City in extent, people, riches, and many other things. The ingenious Monſieur Chevreau reporteth, that in Nero's time there died 300000 people of the plague in old Rome; and yet it would appear that the ground within its walls was a circle of three miles diameter only, whoſe area is about ſeven ſquare miles, and the ſuburbs ſcarce as much more, in all about thirteen ſquare miles. The ſearching Mr. Azout, about fifty years ago, in a letter from Rome, made the number of inhabitants then to be only 119000, and 6000 Jews.

'Tis aſſured that the preſent Biſhop of Killalla, upon a moſt diligent and curious enquiry, found the inhabitants of St. Michan's pariſh to have held out to a medium of

ſixteen to a houſe. A late writer contends for thirteen. I allow ten; which is more than I wou'd give to any other country. By comparing the mortality-bills of the three laſt years there have dy'd about 3000 per ann. this multiply'd by 30 makes no more than 90000; but I doubt theſe bills are kept either imperfectly, or do not take in all the extent of houſes, which might be done fairly, and without running to the other extream as thoſe of London have done. Briſtol I reckon at nigh two thirds of Dublin.

To cut ſhort; having no room to deſcend into particulars, with relation to every city in the table, I can only acquaint the reader, that I wou'd allow to every Dutch family five and a half, to every Engliſh and French ſeven, to every German, &c. eight and a half, and to every one in Ireland ten.

To conclude; as to the number of all the ſouls that have lived from the creation of the world to this day, I compute about ſeven thouſand millions before the flood, (in a period of 1656 years) fourteen thouſand millions from that time till the year 1735, unto which, if three hundred and fifty millions, the number of thoſe who are now alive, be added, it wou'd make that in all twenty one thouſand three hundred fifty millions, are the total of the quick and dead, which, were the world now to end, wou'd appear to judgment.

N. B. About the birth of Chriſt there cou'd not be above one hundred and thirty millions in the whole world.

It will take above fifteen hundred years before the earth be fully peopled, ſo as it can feed no more. The number of acres in the habitable part of it is about forty five thouſand millions eight hundred; now if twenty five thouſand millions of people, are more than the ſaid acres will feed, (few countries being ſo fully peopled) in 5 and a half doublings, (which will be in fifteen or ſixteen hundred years) the preſent three hundred and fifty millions will equal or even exceed the ſaid twenty five thouſand.

January 4. 1734-5.

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